

WIA Mentoring Program

Protégé Tip Sheet

Welcome to the Women in Aerospace Mentoring Program. Thank you for seeking a WIA mentor. Here are some tips for being a successful protégé.

- Understand your own reasons for seeking a mentor
 - How will you benefit from having a mentor?
 - How can a mentor help you with a professional goal?
- Understand your goals for the mentoring relationship
 - What are the skills you would like to improve?
 - What areas would you like feedback on?
 - Be prepared to be challenged
- Seek your mentor's perspective
 - What choices can affect your career path (both positive and negative)?
 - What are the "unwritten rules" in your field?
 - How has she found her work-life balance?
 - Your mentor may share personal experiences that she wouldn't want to be discussed outside of your mentoring relationship. Keep her personal experiences confidential.
- Be prepared to take the lead
 - Plan ahead for your meetings. Prepare questions/goals/topics to discuss.
 - Initiate most meetings and follow through
 - Suggest discussion topics and learning activities (resume review, book recommendations)
 - Share your growth with your mentor
- Set some ground rules
 - What is the best way to reach each other?
 - You are both busy professionals. Keep contacts to a reasonable number. You should agree on how often you will meet and be in touch.
 - Your mentor is not a job service. It is reasonable to ask her for advice when searching for a job, but don't expect a job referral.
- Go for it!

Compiled from various sources, including:

Linda Phillips-Jones, "Mistakes Mentees Make,"

http://www.mentoringgroup.com/html/articles/mentee_30.htm.

Sarah E. Needleman, "Four Tips for Making the Most of Mentor Relationships,"

<http://www.careerjournal.com/myc/diversity/20051020-needleman.html>.

"Tips for Mentors and Mentees,"

<http://www.undergrad.engineering.utoronto.ca/students/careers/WEMS/Tips.htm>.